

Message Text

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EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MNUC, PARM, KS

SUBJECT: ROK NUCLEAR REPROCESSING

REF: STATE 008531

1. WELCOME PROMPT ARRIVAL OF KRATZER GROUP. AFTER RECEIVING REFTEL, I INFORMED PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY GENERAL KIM CHONG-YOM ABOUT PROPOSED MEETINGS IN SEOUL JANUARY 22-23, POINTING OUT THIS WAS EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME FOR BRINGING WASHINGTON GROUP TO SEOUL. I GAVE KIM NAMES OF GROUP MEMBERS, STRESSING THEIR HIGH LEVEL AND KNOWLEDGEABILITY REGARDING PROBLEMS. I ALSO EMPHASIZED OUR EXPECTATIONS THAT VISIT WOULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR VERY QUICK CANCELLATION FRENCH CONTRACT AND OUR UNWILLINGNESS TO SCHEDULE ANY FURTHER DISCUSSIONS UNTIL CONTRACT CANCELLED, PER REFTEL. KIM WELCOMED VISIT AND SAID THAT DATES WERE SATISFACTORY TO ROKG.

2. IN PLANNING FOR WASHINGTON GROUP VISIT, SUGGEST THE GROUP TAKE VERY POSITIVE TONE, PROVIDING FULLER DETAILS ON POSSIBLE AREAS OF US ASSISTANCE AND RESPONDING AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE TO LEE'S QUESTIONS GIVEN US SOME WEEKS AGO. IN MEETINGS WITH CHOI IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL TO PUT SOME EMPHASIS UPON BROADER COOPERATION IN OVERALL SCIENCE AND ENERGY AREA, AS WELL AS INDICATING POSSIBILITY OF SOME ASSISTANCE TO ONE OF CHOI'S FAVORITE PROJECTS, THE KOREAN NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION. GROUP SHOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO REVIEW

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TECHNICAL GROUNDS FOR NOT UNDERTAKING NATIONAL REPROCESSING.

3. WE SUSPECT THAT MOST CRITICAL ISSUE IN DISCUSSIONS WILL BE QUESTION OF REPROCESSING TRAINING AND FUTURE REPROCESSING SERVICES. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED, AS FORTHCOMING A POSITION AS POSSIBLE IN THIS AREA WILL GIVE CHOI FACE-SAVING RATIONALE FOR CANCELLING FRENCH PROJECT. AS ONE SENIOR KOREAN SCIENTIST PUT IT, KOREAN FEELING IS THAT IN MULTINATIONAL CENTER THEY WILL BE RELEGATED TO DO THE "DONKEY WORK," WHILE JAPANESE WITH BETTER TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE IN REPROCESSING WILL HAVE ALL THE IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES. COMPETITION WITH THE JAPANESE ALWAYS STRIKES SENSITIVE NERVE HERE.

4. IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR GROUP, WOULD SUGGEST COURTESY CALL ON KIM CHONG-YOM AND DEPUTY PRIMIN NAM BY KRATZER, AFFORDING OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS BROADER USG CONCERNS, POSITIVE NATURE OF US PROPOSALS, AND DESIRE FOR IMMEDIATE DECISION TO CANCEL FRENCH CONTRACT. PLEASE CONFIRM IF THIS AGREEABLE.

5. RECOGNIZE TIGHT SCHEDULE FACED BY SENIOR MEMBERS KRATZER GROUP, BUT URGE THAT SOME FLEXIBILITY BE LEFT FOR CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS INTO JANUARY 25 IF IT APPEARS FURTHER ROUND OF TALKS USEFUL IN ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVE OF IMMEDIATE CANCELLATION FRENCH CONTRACT.
SNEIDER

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS ADDED PER S/S-O, MR. MACFARLANE.

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NNN

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